

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 (currently amended). An assembly for felling a segment of a tree trunk having at least one notch with a lower surface, said assembly comprising in combination:

a base,

a horizontal lip connected to said base and projecting forward therefrom for contacting engagement with at least a portion of ~~said~~ the lower surface,

a mast connected to said base, said mast having at least a portion extending upwardly from said base, ~~and~~

means for securing said base to ~~said~~ the trunk, and

a take-away cable operatively connected to said assembly.

Claim 2 (original). An assembly for felling a segment of a tree trunk as described in claim 1 wherein said means for securing comprises at least one chain binder connected at opposite ends thereof to said base.

Claim 3 (original). An assembly for felling a segment of a tree trunk as described in claim 1 further comprising a snubbing ring attached to said base.

Claim 4 (original). An assembly for felling a segment of a tree trunk as described in claim 1 wherein said mast has a distal end, said assembly further comprising a top eyelet connected to said mast proximate the distal end thereof, and a first pulley block attached to said top eyelet.

Claim 5 (original). An assembly for felling a segment of a tree trunk as described in claim 1 wherein said base has a storage compartment.

Claim 6 (original). An assembly for felling a segment of a tree trunk as described in claim 1 further comprising a lowering eyelet positioned on said mast proximate said lip.

Claim 7 (original). An assembly for felling a segment of a tree trunk as described in claim 1 wherein said base and said mast form a back surface, said assembly further comprising a back eyelet positioned on said back surface.

Claim 8 (currently amended). An assembly for felling a segment of a tree trunk as described in claim 7 ~~further comprising a~~ wherein said take-away cable ~~having~~ has an upper end connected to said back eyelet.

Claim 9 (original). An assembly for felling a segment of a tree trunk as described in claim 8 further comprising a take-away pulley block operatively engaging said take-away cable.

Claim 10 (currently amended). An assembly for felling a segment of a tree trunk as described in claim 7 further comprising a second pulley block connected to said back eyelet, ~~and a~~ wherein said take-away cable ~~engaging~~ engages said first pulley block and said second pulley block.

Claim 11 (original). An assembly for felling a segment of a tree trunk as described in claim 10 further comprising a take-away pulley block engaging said take-away cable.

Claim 12 (currently amended). An assembly for felling a tree trunk in segments thereof comprising:

a vertical support structure having an elongated base portion, an elongated mast portion connected to said base portion, and a horizontal lip extending from said base for contacting engagement with a notch formed in ~~said~~ the trunk, and

a take-away cable operatively connected to said vertical support structure, said take-away cable ~~have~~ having at least a portion positioned above a drop zone.

Claim 13 (original). An assembly for felling a tree trunk as described in claim 12 wherein said take-away cable has an upper end connected to a back eyelet positioned on a back surface of said vertical support structure.

Claim 14 (currently amended). An assembly for felling a tree trunk as described in claim 12 wherein said take-away cable has a distal end connected to ~~said~~ a segment, and said assembly further comprises a first pulley block and second pulley block operatively engaging said cable, said first pulley block being connected to the distal end of said mast portion and said second pulley block being connected to a back surface of said vertical support structure.

Claim 15 (original). A method of felling a tree trunk, comprising the steps of

- positioning a tree felling assembly along said trunk, said assembly having a base, a horizontal lip connected to said base and projecting forward therefrom, and a mast connected to said base, said mast having at least a portion extending upwardly from said base,
- cutting a notch in said trunk below said assembly, said notch having a lower surface,
- repositioning said assembly along said trunk so that said lip is in contacting engagement with at least a portion of said lower surface,
- securing said assembly to said trunk below said segment,
- cutting said segment from said trunk, and
- lowering said segment from said trunk along a take-away cable operatively engaging said assembly.

Claim 16 (original). A method of felling a tree trunk as described in claim 15 further comprising the steps of:

- affixing a first end of a lowering rope to said segment, and
- engaging said lowering rope with a first pulley block connected to said mast proximate a distal end thereof prior to said cutting step.

Claim 17 (currently amended). A method of felling a tree trunk as described in claim ~~14~~16 further comprising the step of looping a portion of said lowering rope around a snubbing ring affixed to said base.

Claim 18 (original). A method of felling a tree trunk as described in claim 16 further comprising the step of attaching said segment to a take-away pulley block operatively engaging said take-away cable prior to said lowering step, said take-away cable having a portion extending above a drop zone.

Claim 19 (original). A method of felling a tree trunk as described in claim 17 further comprising the step of selectively feeding said lowering rope through said first pulley block concomitant with said lowering step.

Claim 20 (original). A method of felling a tree trunk as described in claim 15 further comprising the step of selectively disengaging said segment from said take-away cable at said drop zone.

Claim 21 (original). A method of felling a tree trunk as described in claim 15 further comprising the steps of:

affixing a distal end of a take-away cable to said segment, and
engaging said take-away cable with a first pulley block connected to said mast proximate a distal end thereof, and with a second pulley block connected to a back surface of said assembly prior to said cutting step.

Claim 22 (original). A method of felling a tree trunk as described in claim 16 further comprising the step of attaching said segment to a take-away pulley block operatively engaging said take-away cable prior to said lowering step, said take-away cable having a portion extending above a drop zone.

Claim 23 (original). A method of felling a tree trunk as described in claim 22 further comprising the step of selectively feeding said take-away cable through said first and second pulley blocks concomitant with said lowering step.

Claim 24 (original). A method of felling a tree trunk as described in claim 23 further comprising the step of selectively disengaging said segment from said take-away cable at said drop zone.

Claim 25 (original). A method of felling a tree trunk as described in claim 15 wherein said repositioning step comprises the steps of:

- attaching an eye nut to a top portion of said trunk,
- connecting a first end of a positioning rope to a lowering eye,
- threading a second end of said positioning rope through said eye nut a first time, said lowering eye, and said eye nut a second time,
- pushing said assembly off of said trunk, and
- selectively feeding said positioning rope through said eye nut.

Claim 26 (original). A method of felling a tree trunk as described in claim 25 wherein said repositioning step further comprises the step of looping a portion of said positioning rope around a snubbing ring affixed to said base prior to said feeding step.